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REMARKS

The Office Action dated 27 January 2005 has been reviewed and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claims 2, 7, 11 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12-18 remain as originally filed. Thus, claims 1-19 are pending and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 2, 3, 7-15 and 19 contain allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, claims 2, 7, 11 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form and are therefore respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 3, 8-10 and 12-15 depend from claims 2, 7 and 11, respectfully, and therefore recite the same combination of allowable features, as well as reciting additional features that further patentably distinguish Applicant's invention. Thus, claims 3, 8-10 and 12-15 are also respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,350,119 to Bergstrom. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 recites a fuel injector including, *inter alia*, a metering orifice disc including a member and an orifice that is defined by a wall that includes a "second portion of the wall extending at a first oblique angle with respect to the first surface" and "the first oblique angle varying with respect to the longitudinal axis." Similarly, claim 4 recites a metering orifice disc including, *inter alia*, a member and an orifice that is defined by a wall that includes a "second portion of the wall extending at a first oblique angle with respect to the first surface" and "the first oblique angle varying so as to define an asymmetrical chamfer." And claim 16 recites a method including, *inter alia*, deforming an orifice "including forming at least one asymmetrical chamfer with respect to the orifice axis." Support for these combinations of features may be found in Applicant's specification as originally filed at, for example, paragraphs 0020-0024, and in Applicant's Figures 2C and 2D as originally filed.

In contrast, Bergstrom's Figure 4 shows a central orifice 24 and a frustoconically tapered shape 34 forming an entrance portion of the central orifice 24. See Bergstrom's column 2, lines 15-26. It is respectfully submitted that Bergstrom fails to teach or suggest Applicant's

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asymmetrical chamfer as defined by a varying oblique angle of the wall defining an orifice. With particular regard to Applicant's claim 16, Bergstrom also states at column 2, lines 15-26, that orifice 24 is fabricated by first punching a circular hole 32 and then etching, rather than by punching (See Applicant's paragraph 0021 as originally filed), a frustoconical shape 34.

Thus, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1, 4 and 16 should be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed. Moreover, claims 5- 6 and 17-18 depend from claims 4 and 16, respectively, and therefore recite the same combination of allowable features, as well as reciting additional features that further patentably distinguish over Bergstrom. Thus, claims 1, 4-6 and 16-18 are also respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, reconsideration of the application and timely allowance of pending claims 1-19 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.


EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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